

Story 1781 (1994 Tape 3)

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Location: Malatya, capital
city of Malatya
Province

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The Mental Patient and the Misdirected Nail

A patient who had been in a mental hospital for some time made an application to be released. His doctors began to examine him to determine whether he had recovered sufficiently to qualify for release. Taking a nail, one doctor held its head against a wall. Another doctor then handed the patient a hammer and said, "Drive that nail into the wall."

The patient studied the nail for a moment. Then he took the nail to the opposite wall and said, "This nail belongs in this wall." He then drove it into that wall with the hammer.

As a result of this behavior, the patient's doctors decided that he was not yet really well enough to leave that institution